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INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION LAGS; LOW STANDARDS SCORED

METALLURGY, MINING INDUSTRIES FAIL TO MEET QUOTA -- Sofia Izgrev, 1 Oct 50

Although the production plan, expressed in 1939 prices, was generally fulfilled and even slightly exceeded for the first 6 months of 1950, some important industries failed to meet their quotas. The latter include metallurgy, metalworking, the electrical industry, construction materials, porcelain and pottery, shoes, cotton, hemp and flax, and fur.

The plan, likewise, was not fulfilled in the mining industry. Lignite production has been low due to the failure of the Marabas mine to meet the 6-month plan. Other products for which the plan was not met were: cast iron, lathes, concrete iron, shaping machines, disk harrows, binders, threshers, irrigation pumps, bolts, rivets, and nuts produced by the Boltovata state industrial enterprise; nails, shovels, picks, axles, horseshoes, bindings, kitchen ranges, pails, glue, and aniline dyes; earthenware pipes produced by the Izida industrial state enterprise; kitchen porcelain produced by the St. Peev enterprise; bricks and tiles; large automobile tires, galoshes, and rubber boots produced by the 9 Septemvri rubber factory; shoes with leather and rubber soles produced by the 9 Septemvri shoe factory; leather clothing, cotton fabrics, hemp fabrics, etc.

The production plan of the Ministry of Industry has been increased by 18.2 percent over 1949, and production during the first half of 1950 exceeded the corresponding period of 1949 by 21.8 percent, according to fixed prices; however, the increases vary substantially throughout the various industries. In relation to the yearly plan, fulfillment during the first 6 months amounted to 48.3 percent, but it must be emphasized that many industries are seasonally limited to the later part of the year, which explains their lower activity during the first 6 months.

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SCORES LOW INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION STANDARDS -- Sofia, Rabotnichesko Delo,
2 Oct 50

Following the decree of the Council of Ministers aimed at improving the organization of trade in the interest of the consumer, various trade organizations have refused to accept low-quality merchandise. The Rayon Cooperative Union in Pavlikeni has rejected a carload of nails manufactured by the Zhitl plant. The nails, in spite of the specifications, were produced only in the smallest and largest sizes. About 27,000 meters of fabrics for summer clothes manufactured by the V. Chervenkov mills have been sold at a 15-percent reduction because of poor quality: 25,000 meters of fabrics manufactured at the G. Dimitrov mills had to be sold at a 10-25 percent reduction, and 40,000 meters of cotton cloth of the V. Piskova factory were included in the same category. Sixty thousand meters of badly dyed cotton from the 1 May factory had to be rejected.

To increase the turnover of unrationed goods and reduce their prices, the flow of consumers' goods to rural areas has been considerably expanded. A number of articles have been released for free sale, some of them with a price reduction of 30 percent.

However, party and public organizations have generally not yet given sufficient attention to the decree on improvement of trade. The reorganization and expansion of operations has not been applied effectively. Most of the new stores expected to be already in operation are still being prepared; of the 16 stores scheduled to be opened in Sofia on 1 September 1950, only three had been opened as of 9 September, and the same situation prevails in other cities. The conclusion of contracts between industrial and trade organizations has also been very slow. Thus, the Toplivo (Fuel) state trade enterprise still has no contract with the Vuglishta (Coal) state mining enterprise, and the Kolstok trade enterprise likewise has no specific agreements with industry. The warehouses of the Rayon Cooperative Union are stockpiling large quantities of goods for unjustifiably long periods. On 31 August 1950, the Cooperative Union in Ruse Okrug had in storage 100,000 meters of cotton fabrics destined for the rural areas, whereas the Cooperative Union in Stara Zagora Okrug kept 69,763 meters of fabrics, etc

The Ministry of Internal Trade is not aware of market conditions and the requirements of the public. In many instances, the goods are kept in the warehouses because the Ministry has failed to establish the order of their distribution. However, one of the weakest points in the application of the decree is the failure to check its fulfillment. The people's soviets and party organizations have been entirely inactive in this regard and must now direct all their efforts to assure the government program for trade operations.

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